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LETTER DATED 17 NOVEMBER 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ARMENIA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the statement, dated 16 November 1993, of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia regarding Security Council resolution 884 (1993).

I should be grateful if you would circulate this statement as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alexander ARZOUMANIAN
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Statement dated 16 November 1993 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia on Security Council resolution 884 (1993)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia appreciates the continuing interest of the United Nations Security Council in finding a peaceful solution to the Nagorny Karabakh conflict and its support of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) Minsk process.

The Foreign Ministry shares the serious concern expressed in Security Council resolution 884 (1993) with regard to the resumption of military activities on 21 October. Armenia believes that Azerbaijan bears special responsibility for the violation of the eight-week-old cease-fire between Azerbaijan and Nagorny Karabakh and for the consequences of that violation.

The Government of Azerbaijan has clearly given new life to its long-standing policy of seeking a military solution to the problem of Nagorny Karabakh by mounting the military offensive of 21-23 October. Azerbaijan has also adopted extremist positions on the negotiating table; it has rejected the compromise solutions offered by the CSCE Minsk Group, shattering hopes that the new leadership of that country would adopt a more reasonable approach.

Furthermore, Azerbaijan continues to bear responsibility for the blockades of Armenia and Nagorny Karabakh, which preceded the militarization of the conflict and which Armenia continues to consider as military activities directed against the civilian population of the region. These blockades clearly constitute hostile acts and the refusal of Azerbaijan to lift them constitutes violations of CSCE decisions and previous Security Council resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993) and 874 (1993).

Armenia will continue to hold Azerbaijan responsible for its unwillingness to renew the cease-fire agreement with the leadership of Nagorny Karabakh and for future violations of the de facto cease-fire, whatever the reason. In this respect, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia expresses its concern at the continuing instability within Azerbaijan, the subjection of questions of peace and security to the vicissitudes of warlords and ambitious politicians, and the inability of its Government to undertake bold steps in favour of a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia agrees with the Security Council that a durable cease-fire must be established immediately and supports, in this respect, the special mediating efforts of the Russian Federation. We believe also that the "Adjusted timetable of urgent steps to implement Security Council resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993) and 874 (1993)" (S/26732, annex), as amended by the Minsk Group meeting at Vienna from 2 to 8 November, and based on a reciprocal step-by-step approach to end the blockades and withdrawal from recently occupied territories is a viable and dignified compromise proposal. It is as yet the best hope to help to end the suffering of all refugees and displaced persons in the region, and to ensure the opening of the Minsk Conference.

Armenia joins in the appeal of the Security Council to all States in the region to refrain from interference or intervention and from any hostile acts and propaganda actions, which can only make the task of establishing peace and security more difficult. Moreover, Armenia expects all States to abide by Security Council resolutions which have consistently called for unimpeded access of international humanitarian assistance to the region.

Armenia continues to view any expression in the resolution which may prejudice the outcome of the Minsk Conference as inimical with the spirit of the resolution - which supports the Minsk process - and, therefore, as unacceptable. In this respect, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia notes with interest that, in supporting this resolution, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland now considers the political status of Nagorny Karabakh as a matter to be determined at the Minsk Conference, as do CSCE, and the international community.

Armenia calls upon Azerbaijan and Nagorny Karabakh to reinstate the cease-fire, to refrain from military operations and to accept the adjusted timetable of urgent steps to implement Security Council resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993) and 874 (1993) as amended in Vienna from 2 to 8 November.

We expect, similarly, that the international community will bear upon Azerbaijan to act similarly and that it will refrain from deeds and words that fuel the war machine of Azerbaijan and its extremist positions.